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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,126	04/13/2004	Hideo Kato	G121-084 US	3503
21706	7590	09/13/2005	EXAMINER	
NOTARO AND MICHALOS 100 DUTCH HILL ROAD SUITE 110 ORANGEBURG, NY 10962-2100			LE, TAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,126

Applicant(s)

KATO, HIDEO

Examiner

Tan Le

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 13 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 8 and 10-12 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 0205 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the second office action for application No. 10/823, 126. This application contains 8 claims numbered 1-16. Claims 9-16 have been added.
2. Amendment to drawings of Figures 7 and 8 submitted on 6/22/05 is not approved because corrected drawing sheets not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d). Any amended replacement drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 6,073,027 to Norman et al.

As to claim 1, Norman et al. teaches a coupling device comprising a main body portion (38) having a long guide hole (54, spring channel); and a movable portion (14, 82).

As to claim 2, Norman also teaches the movable portion (14, 82) being slidably fitted into said main body (col. 4, lines 60-65), wherein the main body comprises: a case main body provided with a long guide groove (48, 50, Fig. 6); and a lid portion provided

with a long guided hole (56) and wherein the movable portion (14, 82) comprises a head portion (body of the peg 82) to be passed through said long guide hole; and a guide leg portion (head of the peg 82) to be fitted into said long guide groove.

As to claim 5, Norman also teaches an arresting means (spring plates) between said main body and said movable portion to stably halt the movable portion at a predetermined position, wherein the arresting means is composed of a pair of arresting plates slidably biased in mutually opposite directions to sandwich a portion of said movable portion.

Regarding claim 6, Norman also teaches the arresting plates being sandwiched between a case main body and a lid portion in a slidably biased state in one direction and respective both side portions are engagedly fixed with an arresting member.

Regarding claim 7, Norman also teaches a means (82) provided between the member to which the movable portion is attached and the movable portion.

Claims 9 and 13 recited limitations similar to those recited in claims 1-2 and 5-7 are therefore also read on Norman et al.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent No. 6,751,473 to Goyal et al.

Claims 1-7 read on Goyal et al as evidently shown on Figs 17-18 for example.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4, 8, 10-12 and 14-16 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Applicant's argument with respect to Norman et al. has been considered but they are not persuasive. Claims 1-2 and 5-7 still reads on Norman et al. as pointed out in the rejection. Independent claim 1 has been amended which also necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-6818. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. through Fri. from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert P. Olszewski can be reached. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tan le
September 2, 2005.


ANITA KING
PRIMARY EXAMINER